

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 30, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY made the following *adverse*

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 251.]

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill for the relief of John B. Rittenhouse, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:*

That the object of the bill is to indemnify Purser John B. Rittenhouse of the United States navy for losses alleged to have been incurred, in consequence of the prevalence of the yellow fever on board the United States frigate *Susquehanna*, in the year 1858, and for traveling expenses from Greensboro', Alabama, to Washington city, in anticipation of orders from the Navy Department.

No statement of his case by petition or otherwise is addressed by the claimant to Congress, and your committee having referred it to the Navy Department for information, have received from the Secretary of the Navy the following letter:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *April 28, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter inclosing a bill, with accompanying papers, for the relief of Purser John B. Rittenhouse, and requesting the department to furnish any information it may possess, or to make such suggestions as it may deem proper, in relation to the losses and claims of Purser Rittenhouse.

First, with regard to his losses while purser of the *Susquehanna*: For his own convenience and pleasure he was granted six weeks' leave of absence by Captain J. R. Sands, commanding the *Susquehanna*, while that vessel was employed on the coast of Central America. The act of Captain Sands in granting the leave was disapproved of by the department. During Purser Rittenhouse's absence the yellow fever raged with violence on board the *Susquehanna*, in consequence of which he alleges to have incurred the losses for which he asks relief. If Purser Rittenhouse had not been absent from his post on board the *Susquehanna*, to which the department had assigned him, it does not appear that the loss of which he complains would have occurred.

Secondly, with regard to his claim for traveling expenses from Greensboro', Alabama, to Washington city: By a General Order, of January 30, 1846, all officers of the navy, when not on duty, are required to keep the department at all times advised of their address. When the order was issued to Purser Rittenhouse to proceed to Boston, he was in Washington. The order was addressed and delivered to him in Washington. The department had not been advised in any way that Greensboro', Alabama, was his residence, nor was there anything on its files to show it. It has not, to my knowledge, been the practice of the department to allow traveling expenses on anticipated orders, nor was such the case at the time Purser Rittenhouse alleges it to have been so.

The bill and papers are herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Hon. JOHN R. THOMSON,

*Acting Chairman Committee on Naval Affairs, U. S. Senate.*

Upon this explanation the claim set up by Purser Rittenhouse is totally unfounded, and your committee report the following resolution, and recommend its adoption:

*Resolved*, That the bill for the relief of John B. Rittenhouse be, and the same is hereby, rejected.